

Saved by Grace?

Yes! And forever more... saved by grace! One must accept the free gift, but one cannot earn it. Grace, by definition, is unearned kindness or unmerited favor.

So many today are confused about grace. Some think grace comes by merely "saying the sinner's prayer." Problem: you cannot find the sinner's prayer in scripture! Grace does not come to the soul by merely saying some words, verbal or mental.

Others mistakenly believe that some behavior, some attitude can cause people to earn their salvation. They think that when they believe, repent, confess and are baptized into Christ, that they have earned salvation. If it is earned it cannot be grace!

Be careful here. God, in the scriptures, does indeed teach that we must believe, repent, confess and be baptized for our sins to be forgiven! But that does not earn salvation. It is merely the God-given process for accepting the gift of salvation.

When one believes that salvation does not come through grace, one of two common mistakes will creep into the thinking:

1. "I am saved by doing good, so I have earned my salvation by good works!" (This lie leads to arrogance and self-reliance. It denies the need for the blood of Jesus and focuses on self and not the Savior.)
2. "People are saved by being good, nice, having good attitude and a sweet spirit." (This lie leads to the belief that "surely all those nice people I met on vacation in Europe, etc., can't be lost.")

As soon as you allow yourself to believe that salvation is by kind behavior or a good attitude, you will begin to fall prey to one of these two lies.

Back to basics: Jesus is liar, lunatic, or Lord. Assuming you have learned the He is Lord, let's go to John 14:1-6. Jesus says that no one comes to the Father unless they come through Him. In John 8:24 we learn that if a person does not believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah of the Old Testament) he will die in his sins.

See the problem? Man cannot change God's word. Liberal interpretations of the scriptures do not really change God's truth. Salvation comes through Jesus alone, not some human idea of sweetness (read Acts 10). Salvation is in Christ (read II Timothy 2:10). We get into Christ by baptism (read Galatians 3:26, 26; Romans 6:1-4). This is the only true way to begin a genuine relationship with Him!

Stop and think about what you think. And ask yourself if it squares with scripture! Is your source of authority, "But it seems like to me" or "thus saith the Lord!"? Salvation comes by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8-10) made possible only by the blood of Jesus Christ. He IS the only way. And He became this "way" because he loves you more than you will ever know!

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